

SERIAL NO.: 10/622,248
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 13747/62043

Remarks/Arguments

Please reconsider the application in view of amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 and 11 are pending in the application. Claim 11 has been amended. Claims 1-6 and 11 are rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese reference JP 357,178,946A (the '946 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The '946 reference does not identically disclose the vehicular lighting system recited in independent claim 1. The '946 reference discloses a 'lighting apparatus fixing method for car radiator grill'. See '946 reference, title. The '946 reference discloses a radiator grill 11 molded by an injection molding method and a cup-shaped lamp housing molding space L formed and communicated to a molding space M which forms the grill and resin injected and molded into one piece-shape. See '946 reference, abstract, paragraph 2, lines 1-4. After the molding, a mask is laid and a reflex film is formed in the interior of a housing lamp 12. See '946 reference, abstract, lines 4-5. Thus, as shown in FIGS. 1-6 of the '946 reference, disclosed is a radiator grill 11 and a lamp housing 12. The lamp housing 12 is molded beside the grill 11 so that they are 1 piece. See FIGS. 3-6, '946 reference. However, the '946 reference does not disclose that the light fixture is substantially flush with a front of the grille. Neither description nor drawing is given that would indicate that the light fixture in the '946 reference is substantially flush with the front of the grille. Thus, the '946 reference does not disclose that the light fixture is substantially flush with the front of the grille.

In contrast, the claimed invention is a vehicular lighting system comprising a grille and at least one light fixture integrated with the grille wherein the fixture is unobstructed by the grille and the fixture is substantially flush with a front of the grille.

Because the '946 reference fails to disclose that the light fixture is substantially flush with the front of the grille as claimed in the invention in claim 1, applicant submits that claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom, are not anticipated by the '946 reference.

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For these and other reasons, applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by the '946 reference and requests that the rejection of these claim and those claimed dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese reference described above, the '946 reference. Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that the examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1. For reasons given above, and others, claim 1 is allowable and therefore, all claims dependent therefrom are also allowable. Therefore, applicant requests the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 11, applicant has amended this claim to include the limitation that the socket will receive a light fixture substantially flush with the front of the grille base. Applicant believes this amendment has made the claim allowable and for reasons given above, and others, applicant submits that claims 2-5 and 11 would not have been obvious and requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

The claims have been shown to be allowable over the prior art. Applicant believes that this paper is responsive to each and every ground of rejection cited by the Examiner in the Action dated July 29, 2005, and respectfully requests favorable action in this application. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 04-0932 (Reference Number 13747/62043).

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Respectfully submitted,

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